

Claims

1. A method for increasing the contrast between reflected and background luminescence on an object to be scanned comprising the following steps:
 - targeting a signal on an object to be scanned for luminescence;
 - altering a variable of the signal to produce a contrast between the luminescence on the object and any background luminescence caused by a second object not to be detected; and
 - processing the return signal to remove any background luminescence.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the altered variable is signal intensity.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the altered variable is UV light wavelength.
4. A method for processing the contrast between reflected and background luminescent on an object to be scanned comprising the following steps:
 - targeting a luminescent signal on an object to be scanned for luminescence through an optical unit;
 - varying the intensity of light through the optical unit to produce a contrast between the luminescence on the object and any background luminescence; and
 - processing the return signal to remove any background luminescence.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the intensity of light permitted through to the object is varied by a beam splitter.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein the intensity of light permitted to the object is varied by an optical filter.
7. A system for processing the contrast between the luminescent material of an object to be scanned and luminescent material on the background comprising:

a source of UV light to be targeted on the object;
means for modulating the the UV signal so as to change the characteristics of the signal so as to filter out background signal;
means for detecting the luminescent signal from the modulated UV so as filter out background luminescence.

8. A system for processing the contrast between the luminescent material of an object to be scanned and luminescent material on the background comprising:
a source of UV light to be targeted on the object containing a luminescent target
material means for modulating the UV signal so as to change the characteristics of the signal so as to filter out unwanted background luminescent signal;
means for detecting the luminescent signal from the modulated UV so as to filter out background luminescence;
and means for displaying the resultant filtered end signal.